DEWAN'S CONCLUDING REMARKS.

GENTLEMEN,

We have now reached the close of the Session and I do not wish to tire the Members by making any lengthy remarks. The Budget was the chief subject for consideration at this Session and a large number of Members participated in its discussion. The difficulties of framing the Budget for next year have been great on account of the uncertain operation, in these abnormal times, of many economic and financial factors, and I am thankful to the Members for their appreciation of these difficulties.

I believe, the general lines on which the Budget for n ext year has been framed received a large measure of support and the exposition of some of the important problems relating to our revenue and capital finances, given in my opening Address, helped to clarify the position regarding them. There were, of course, points which came in for criticism and it is only natural that there should be differences of opinion on some matters. Well-informed criticism is of great value as it will help us to take a more comprehensive view of public measures than otherwise and we are grateful for such criticism.

I wish to give expression to the gratitude of us all for the wide support which has been extended by public opinion, in and out of Mysore, to our claim for the immediate abolition of the subsidy. In this connection, I should like to refer to the view expressed by an important organ of such opinion in South India. Commenting on what I have stated on this subject in my Address, the *Madras Mail* has made this observation :—

> " Mysore's grievance is that she is singled out for a special levy. She will not rest until the tribute is abolished and equality of treatment is thus established. In this effort she has the good wishes of all in South India and Sir Mirza Ismail can, with confidence, urge that the justice of Mysore's claim is uncontested in the South."

The necessity for further retrenchments, particularly larger cuts in salaries, was urged both in the course of general discussion on the Budget as well as in the debate on one or two resolutions on it. A few Members seem to think that the reduction of salaries and the abolition of appointments will result in savings, sufficient not only for wiping out the existing deficit but also for remitting taxation and

making large grants to development departments. I have explained in my Address that all feasible major reductions in expenditure, including the abolition of appointments considered not quite necessary and as large a cut in salaries as could be made, have already been effected, that the scope for further economies is very limited and that the search for minor economies will continue. The view that a very large amount can be saved by the reduction of salaries of the Services, is, I am afraid, based altogether upon a misapprehension.

It is impossible to effect large savings by resort to any such measure. Even if the existing rates of cut in the case of all grades of officers are quadrupled, and a forty per cent reduction is enforced in the salaries of all officers in receipt of Rs. 350 and above—I need hardly state how impracticable and unwise it would be to attempt to make any such drastic cut in salaries—the amount saved would not be sufficient even for wiping out the present deficit, not to speak of leaving any large surplus for remission of taxation or for additional grants to development departments. Such being the position, it is surprising that cuts in salaries should be considered as an unlimited resource which can be tapped for finding money for meeting all developmental demands and for solving all our financial difficulties. These difficulties are entirely the result of a sudden and substantial drop in our revenues, and it is only the restoration of our income to more or less its old standard that can effect a real improvement in our financial position.

The need for additional grants for some pressing purposes was urged by the Members. I quite agree that the provisions we have made for some of these demands are inadequate and we should only have been too glad to have made much larger grants if we could have done so. In view, however, of the urgency and importance of these needs, some additional provision should, I think, be made for them. As already stated when the resolution relating to Drinking Water Wells was under discussion, an addition of Rs. 25,000 will be made to the grant for these Wells. During the last two or three years, it has not been possible to open new Local Fund Dispensaries or Veterinary Hospitals. Some of the Local Bodies are prepared to give their share of the cost of these institutions and it is desirable that the quota of Government should also be contributed. We shall, therefore, arrange for the opening of a few Local Fund Dispensaries and a few Veterinary Hospitals in the next year.

Similarly, there has unfortunately been a set-back to the progress of Primary Education in the last few years due entirely to the shrinkage of the revenues of both the Government and the Local Bodies. The existing conditions, no doubt, do not permit of any large schemes of advancement of Primary Education being taken up, but it is not desirable that there should be a complete suspension of the programme of opening new schools. Some of the Local Bodies are willing to contribute their shares of the cost, payable under the Elementary Education Regulation, for starting new schools and it is desirable that the Government share of such cost should also be made available. We shall, therefore, endeavour to provide the money required for opening in the next year the fresh schools which, the Local Bodies consider, are urgently wanted and for the maintenance of which they are prepared to contribute their quota.

My colleagues and myself are greatly obliged to you all for the help and co-operation you have so kindly extended to us in the conduct of the work of this Session. Now, I wish you all good-bye, and declare the Session closed.

On behalf of the Assembly, MR. P. SUBBARAMA CHETTY thanked the Dewan and his colleagues for giving a patient hearing to the views and representations of the members throughout the Session and for their sympathetic replies to some of the representations for enhanced grants, so far as conditions rendered such replies possible.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA requested the Dewan to convey to His Highness the Maharaja the sentiments of loyalty and devotion as also the most humble felicitations of the Members of the Assembly on the successful celebration of the 50th Birthday of His Highness.

With three cheers to His Highness the Maharaja, proposed by KHAN BAHADUR MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN, the proceedings came to a close at 4-30 P.M.

C. SUBRAHMANYA AIYAR,

BANGALORE,
Dated 12th September 1933.

Secretary,
Representative Assembly.